

Minutes
Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee
January 23, 2006

Committee Members Present: Russ Brubaker, Terry Holme, Alec Stephens, Joyce Moty, Cheryl Klinker, Neal Adams, Lisa Chun, Jeff Hou, Don Harper

Staff: Ken Bounds, Susan Golub, Michael Shiosaki, Joelle Ligon

Committee Business: The meeting agenda was approved, as were the minutes from the November 28, 2005 meeting (as amended).

Public Comments: **Joyce Moty** reported to the Committee about the Department of Neighborhood Summit that she and Cheryl Klinker attended. At the Summit Mayor Nickels stated that there would be no renewal of the Park Levy, and also Ms. Moty heard the Mayor state on the radio that transportation was his next levy priority. In speaking about this issue with Councilmember Della, Ms. Moty learned that operations and maintenance support for Pro Parks Levy projects are among his top priorities. In the neighborhood report segment of the Summit, many neighborhoods mentioned parks and open space as top priorities.

Ms. Moty also informed the Committee about the January 28 Citizen Budget Conference which will be an opportunity to talk to City Councilmembers and City staff about park needs with the goal of getting funding in the 2007 budget. Funding needs Ms. Moty mentioned include maintenance funding, invasive removal, the need for more natural area staff and volunteer coordinators.

Mid-Term Levy Report: Joelle Ligon circulated a copy of the draft report for the Committee's review. This version includes the suggestions the Committee made when they reviewed an earlier draft at the November 28, 2005 meeting. Ms. Ligon noted that the format for the Mid-term Report will be different from the Annual Report and will include financial information from the first 4 years of the Levy.

Regarding translations of the Report, Ms. Ligon reported that Parks will translate the document into 8 languages, at an approximate cost of \$10,000. The translated versions will be on the web site and information will be included in the English version that the translations are available. Responding to a question, Ms. Ligon stated that Parks will do outreach to community organizations and libraries with language programs about the translations.

Development Projects – Quarterly Report: Michael Shiosaki provided the Committee with a quarterly report on Levy development projects. Highlighted projects were:

- **Plymouth Pillars Park:** After initial high bids and a redesign, the Park was recently completed and includes an off-leash area and pedestrian path.

- **Ballard Commons Park:** Skateboarders like the new bowl, and even say its better than the old. The Park includes a plaza and water feature, and is scheduled for a formal opening on March 4th.
- **Colman School:** This project is substantially complete, and once we get some dry weather the paving can be finished.

Mr. Shiosaki reported that a total of 56 Levy projects have been completed: 49 projects that were named in the Levy and 7 Opportunity Fund projects. Fifteen more projects are scheduled for completion in 2006, some of them Opportunity Fund projects. The Laurelhurst and Montlake Community Center projects will be going to bid within the next 6 weeks. The South Lake Union, Magnuson and Jefferson Park projects are scheduled for completion in 2007.

Some projects have had schedule changes:

- **Orchard Street Ravine:** The design for this project will be before the Park Board in February, whereas the original schedule had design in 2005 and construction in 2006. Neighbors requested that invasive removal be done over 2 years, not in 1 as originally planned, resulting in the schedule change.
- **Powell Barnett Park:** This Opportunity Fund project was scheduled for 2007, but because the project got a large donation we will be starting in 2006.
- **7th Avenue NE Street End/Northlake Park:** This small project ran into permit problems but will begin soon, about 3-4 months late.
- **Delridge:** Development of 3 adjacent small parks has been delayed because bids came in significantly over budget. The parks have been redesigned and will be re-bid in the next 4 weeks, with a revised completion date of September 2006.
- **South Lake Union:** This big project is being done in partnership with the Seattle Parks Foundation which is raising \$10 million for the Park. In the original design the bulkhead was not going to be replaced, but upon further research it has been determined that it must be replaced. In February, Parks will ask the City Council for additional funding, and we expect to go out to bid by the end of the first quarter and start construction in the 2nd quarter.

Committee Business: Ms. Golub reported that the February 27 meeting will focus on acquisition. She noted that there will be vacancies on the Committee and suggestions for new members are welcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.